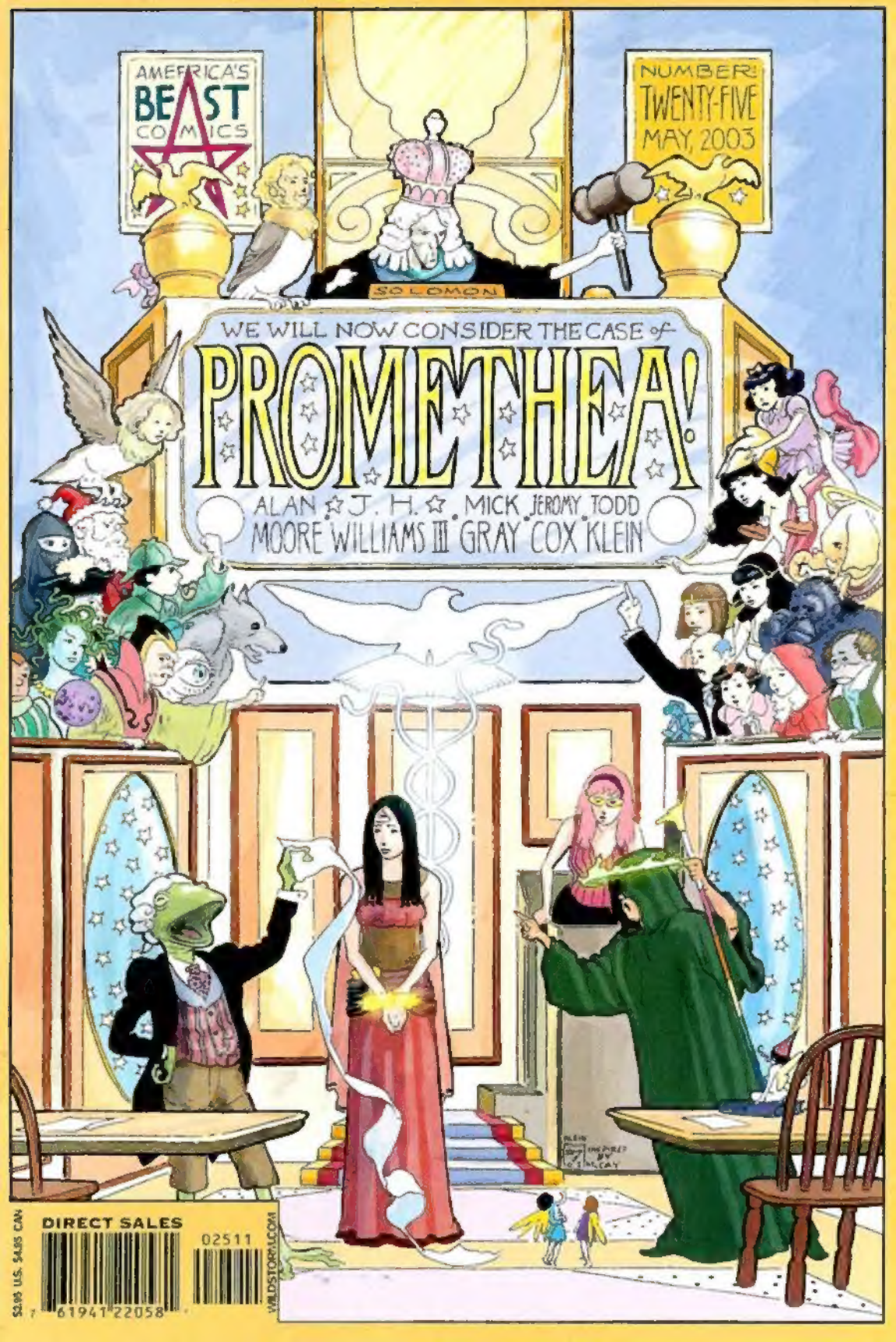
AMERICA'S BEAST COMICS
NUMBER: TWENTY-FIVE MAY, 2003
SOLOMON
WE WILL NOW CONSIDER THE CASE of
PROMETHEA!
ALAN MOORE ☆ J. H. WILLIAMS III ☆ MICK GRAY ☆ JEROMY COX ☆ TODD KLEIN
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ALKUTH, BURLEIGH DRIVE, NEW YORK.
HERE'S HOW IT IS. EARLIER TODAY, NEW YORK GOT TRASHED. YOU KNOW THE CULPRIT.
IN FACT, LAST YEAR YOU ATTEMPTED TO HAVE HER KILLED, OR SO YOUR HIT-THING TOLD US.
MR. ROYCE, WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT PROMETHEA?
HENRY, DON'T TELL THEM!
THOSE...THOSE CREATURES, THEY SAID IF WE CAUSED HER ANY TROUBLE...
PRU, IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT.
AGENTS, WE REPRESENT AN ANCIENT ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS THE TEMPLE.
FOR CENTURIES WE'VE PROTECTED MANKIND FROM THE PAGAN DEMONESS CALLED PROMETHEA.
CENTURIES, EH? MR. ROYCE, YOUR ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT: HOW DID YOU FIND THIS PROMETHEA?
A-AN ELEMENTAL CREATURE SNIFFED HER OUT. IT SENSED THAT SHE POSED AS A COLLEGE STUDENT.
WE CAN CHECK THAT.
SO WHY IS THIS PROMETHEA SO DANGEROUS?
SHE CONJURED EVIL SPIRITS TO THREATEN OUR GRAND-CHILDREN! SHE--
PRU, THAT'S ENOUGH.
PUT SIMPLY, THIS WOMAN IS AN EMANATION...A LOWER FORM, IF YOU WILL...OF THE BIBLICAL WHORE OF BABYLON.
SHE BRINGS APOCALYPSE. SHE BRINGS THE END OF THE WORLD.
THE DAY OF JUDGMENT.

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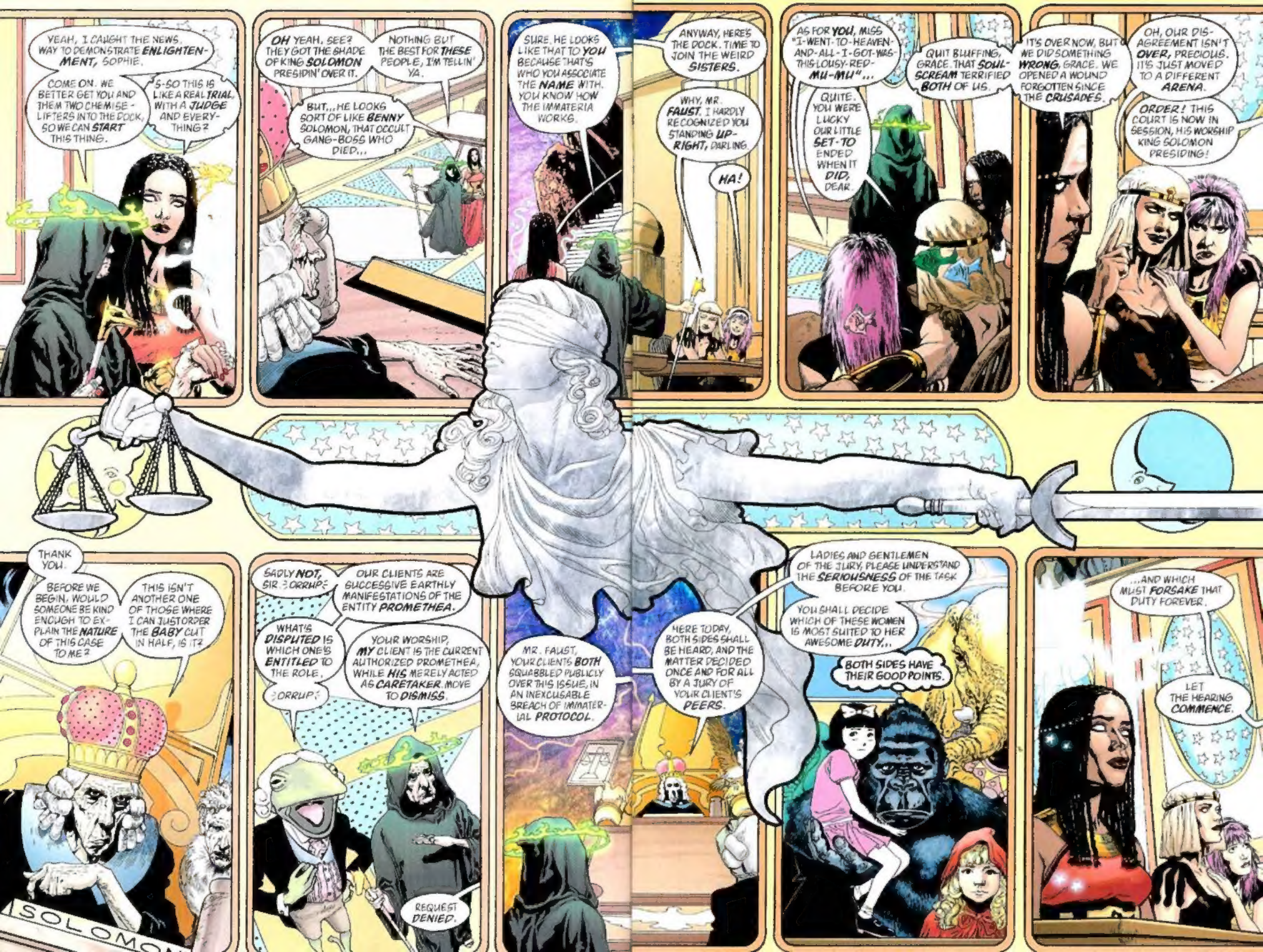
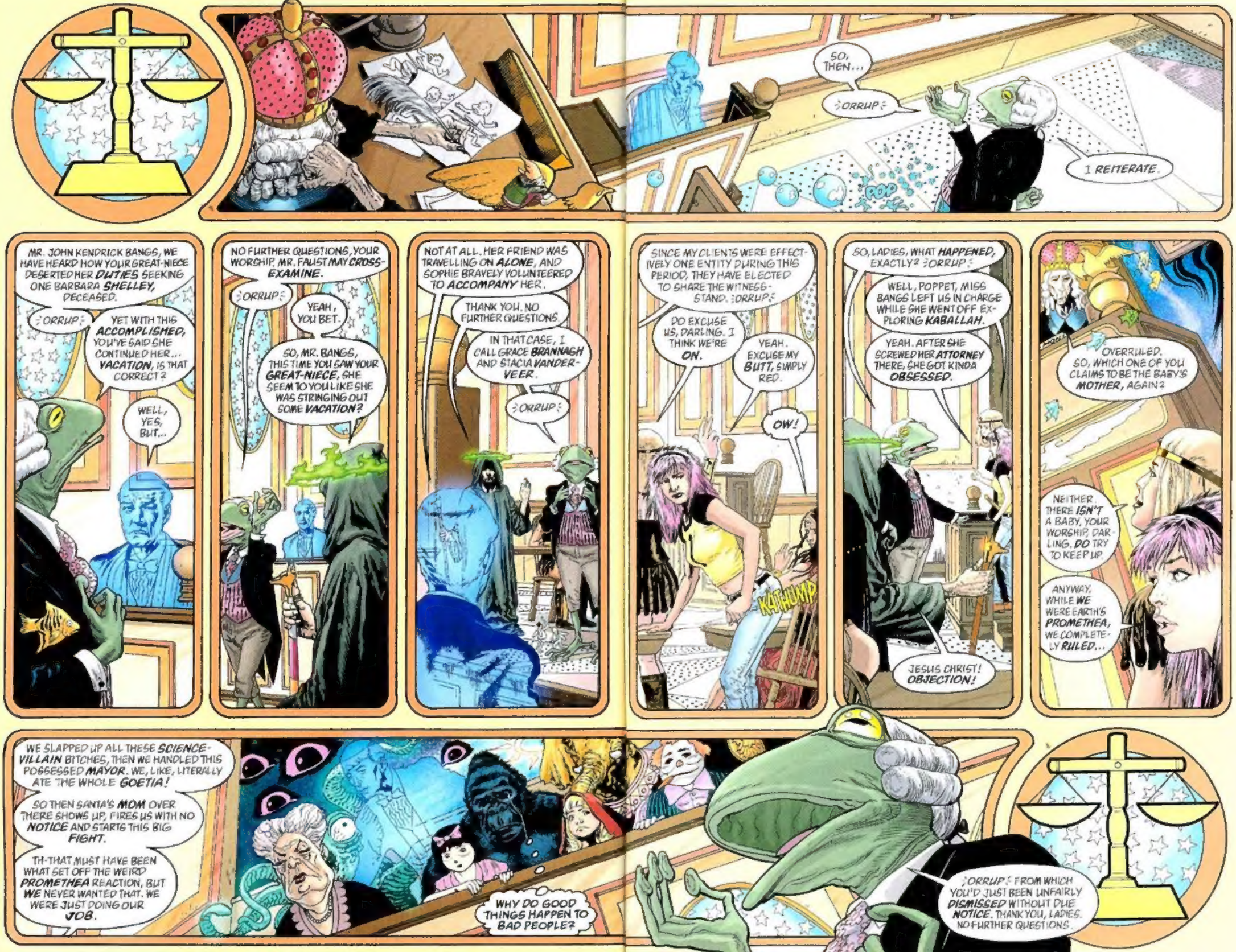
BILL, WHAT'S GOING ON? THIS LOOKS LIKE A COURTROOM.
'FRAID SO, HON. IT'S SITTING TO DECIDE WHICH OF YOU TWO IS THE OFFICIAL PROMETHEA.
H-HEY, GRACE? HOW COME WE'RE NOT ONE PERSON ANY MORE?
WE ONLY EVER SHARED A BODY ON THE EARTHLY PLANE, DARLING... AND VERY ENJOYABLE IT IS, I MUST SAY.
ACTUALLY, I'M MORE CONCERNED ABOUT FINDING A LAWYER.
DON'T WORRY, GRACE. I'VE ARRANGED ONE FOR YOU.

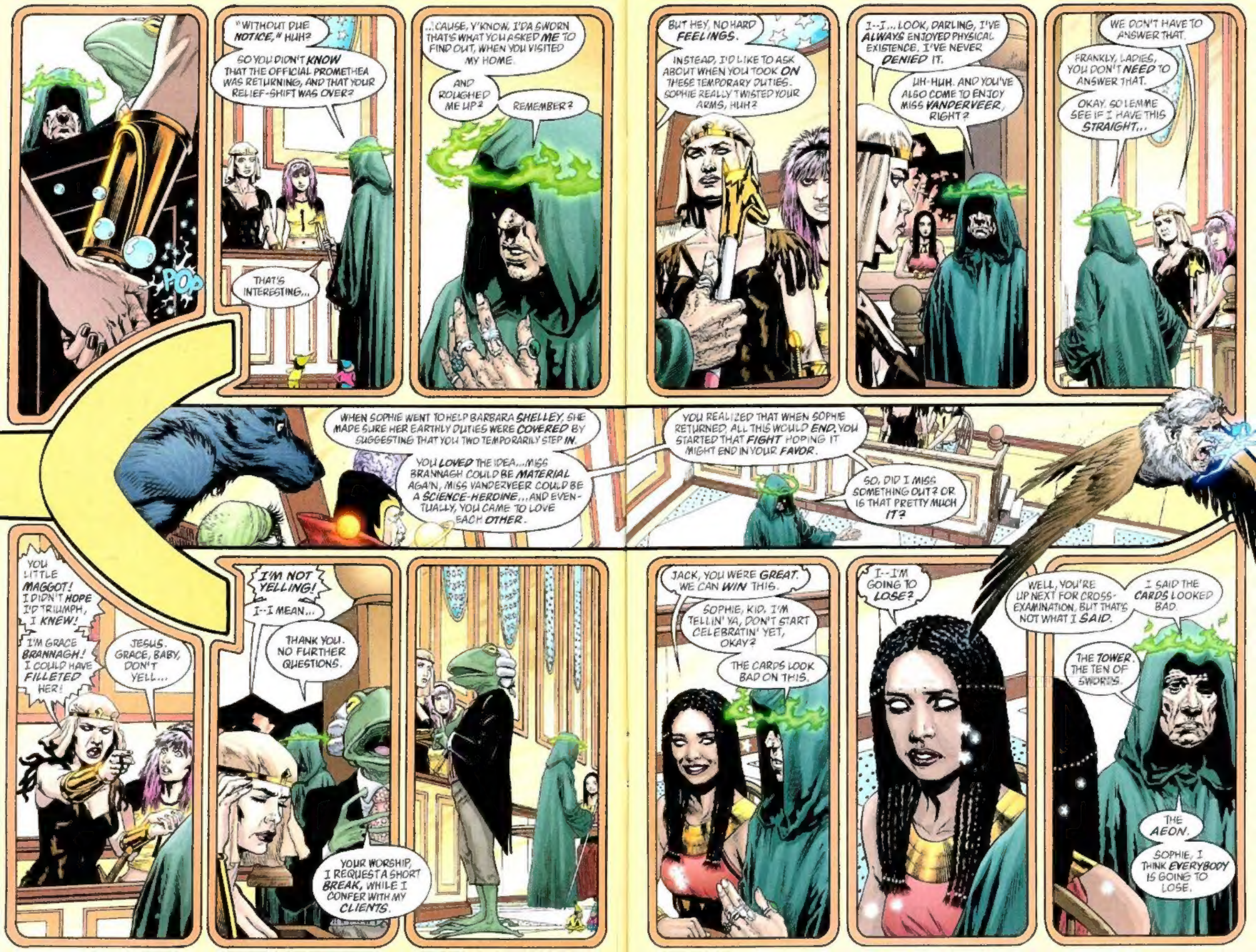
MEET MR. PHILOMENUS PHROG, A BARRISTER FROM ONE OF MY "LITTLE MARGIE" STORIES.
THIS IS A JOKE, RIGHT?
BILL? DO I GET REPRESENTATION, TOO?
WHY, OF COURSE YOU DO, SWEETHEART. I ALREADY CONTACTED JACK FAUST.

YEAH, YEAH, I'M HERE... ASTRALLY SPEAKING, AS IT WERE.
HEY, KID. HOW'S IT GOIN'?
N-NOT SO GOOD, JACK. I JUST CAME BACK FROM THE GODHEAD, STRAIGHT INTO ALL THIS.


YEAH, I CAUGHT THE NEWS. WAY TO DEMONSTRATE ENLIGHTEN-MENT, SOPHIE.
COME ON. WE BETTER GET YOU AND THEM TWO CHEMISE-LIFTERS INTO THE DOCK, SO WE CAN START THIS THING.
5-SO THIS IS LIKE A REAL TRIAL, WITH A JUDGE AND EVERY-THING?
OH YEAH. SEE? THEY GOT THE SHADE OF KING SOLOMON PRESIDIN' OVER IT.
NOTHING BUT THE BEST FOR THESE PEOPLE, I'M TELLIN' YA.
BUT,,,HE LOOKS SORT OF LIKE BENNY SOLOMON, THAT OCCULT GANG-BOSS WHO DIED,,,
SURE. HE LOOKS LIKE THAT TO YOU BECAUSE THAT'S WHO YOU ASSOCIATE THE NAME WITH. YOU KNOW HOW THE IMMATERIA WORKS.
ANYWAY, HERE'S THE DOCK. TIME TO JOIN THE WEIRD SISTERS.
WHY, MR. FAUST, I HARDLY RECOGNIZED YOU STANDING UP-RIGHT, DARLING.
HA!
AS FOR YOU, MISS "I-WENT-TO-HEAVEN-AND-ALL-I-GOT-WAS-THIS-LOUSY-RED-MU-MU"...
QUITE. YOU WERE LUCKY OUR LITTLE SET-TO ENDED WHEN IT DID, DEAR.
QUIT BLUFFING, GRACE. THAT SOUL-SCREAM TERRIFIED BOTH OF US.
IT'S OVER NOW, BUT WE DID SOMETHING WRONG, GRACE. WE OPENED A WOUND FORGOTTEN SINCE THE CRUSADES.
OH, OUR DIS-AGREEMENT ISN'T OVER, PRECIOUS. IT'S JUST MOVED TO A DIFFERENT ARENA.
ORDER! THIS COURT IS NOW IN SESSION, HIS WORSHIP KING SOLOMON PRESIDING!
THANK YOU.
BEFORE WE BEGIN, WOULD SOMEONE BE KIND ENOUGH TO EX-PLAIN THE NATURE OF THIS CASE TO ME?
THIS ISN'T ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE WHERE I CAN JUST ORDER THE BABY CUT IN HALF, IS IT?
SOLOMON
SADLY NOT, SIR. ?ORRUP?
OUR CLIENTS ARE SUCCESSIVE EARTHLY MANIFESTATIONS OF THE ENTITY PROMETHEA.
WHAT'S DISPUTED IS WHICH ONE'S ENTITLED TO THE ROLE.
?ORRUP?
YOUR WORSHIP, MY CLIENT IS THE CURRENT AUTHORIZED PROMETHEA, WHILE HIS MERELY ACTED AS CARETAKER. MOVE TO DISMISS.
REQUEST DENIED.
MR. FAUST, YOUR CLIENTS BOTH SQUABBLED PUBLICLY OVER THIS ISSUE, IN AN INEXCUSABLE BREACH OF IMMATER-IAL PROTOCOL.
HERE TODAY, BOTH SIDES SHALL BE HEARD, AND THE MATTER DECIDED ONCE AND FOR ALL BY A JURY OF YOUR CLIENT'S PEERS.
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE JURY, PLEASE UNDERSTAND THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE TASK BEFORE YOU.
YOU SHALL DECIDE WHICH OF THESE WOMEN IS MOST SUITED TO HER AWESOME DUTY,,,
BOTH SIDES HAVE THEIR GOOD POINTS.
,,,AND WHICH MUST FORSAKE THAT DUTY FOREVER.
LET THE HEARING COMMENCE.

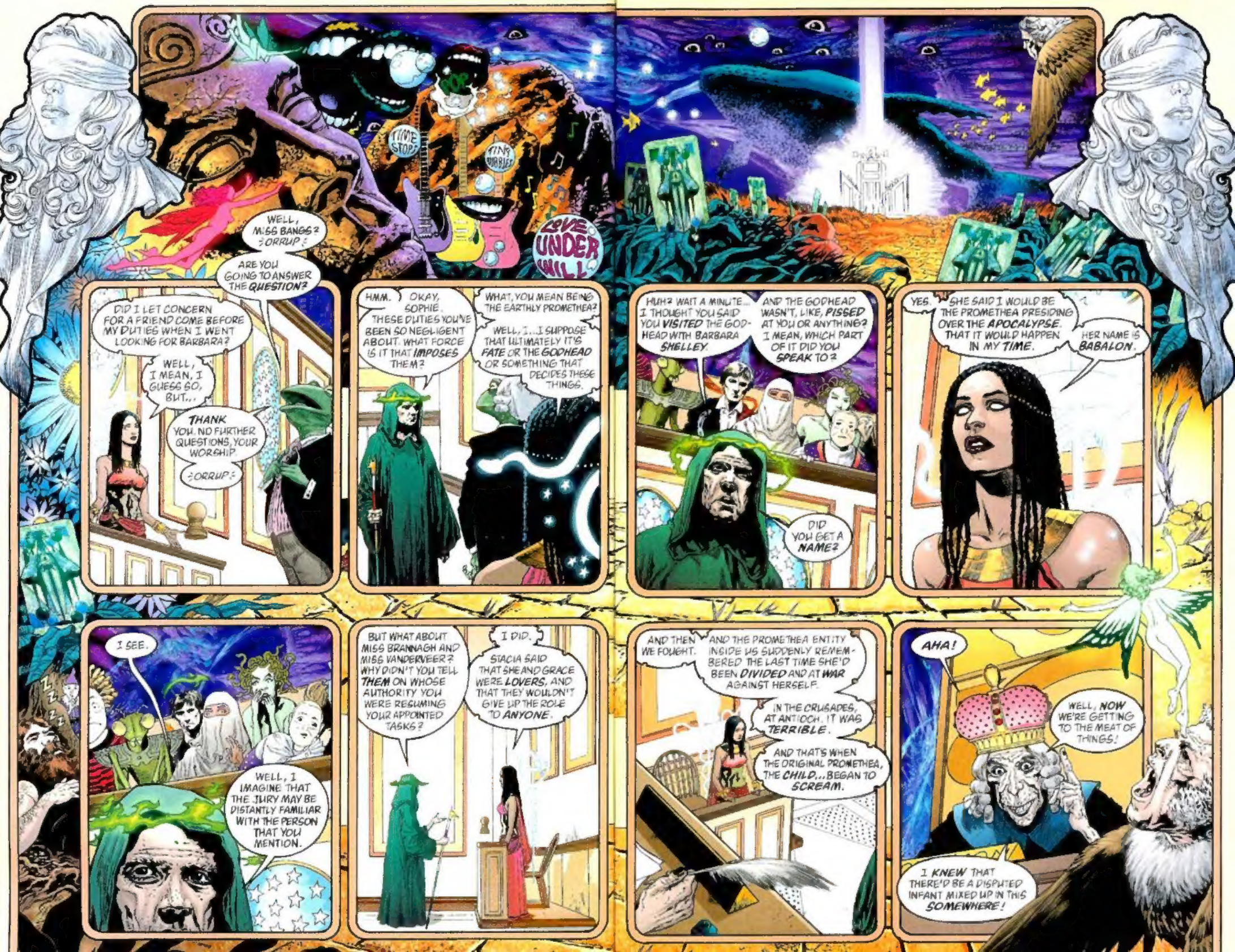
THE EMPEROR'S NEW YORK TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' HORSE'S WHISPERS, LINDBERGH BABY BLUE HIS MIND OUT IN A CAR...
JESUS. AND THIS'S IS THE ONLY PLACE WE'LL FIND STUDENTS BEFORE COLLEGE OPENS TOMORROW?
PRETTY MUCH. Y'KNOW, LUCILLE, THIS STRANGE. WHEN THIS PLACE WAS TROTSKY'S, WITH THAT EARLY PROMETHEA SIGHTING, THE SAME BAND WAS PLAYING.
APPARENTLY THAT WAS THE NIGHT THEIR SINGER HAD HIS VISION OR BREAKDOWN OR WHATEVER IT WAS.
GET PURGED
EXIT
MMH. I GUESS IT'S BRINGING BACK HAPPY MEMORIES FOR HIM. SO, YOU LIKE ROYCE'S STUDENT THEORY?
IT FITS. TODAY'S TROUBLE STARTED IN THE COLLEGE AREA. LET'S ASK THOSE KIDS OVER THERE IF... HEY! WATCH MY ARM!
ALL MEAT TOUR
AND DID THOSE FEET, IN PENNY LANE, DEVELOP DARK, SATANIC BLISTERS? IT'S JUST A NORTHERN LIGHT FANTASTIC VOYAGE TO ARCTURUS, LAR.
THE LONG AND WINDING ABBEY ROAD OF EXCESS LEADS TO WISDOM, IN THE FACE SHE KEEPS BY A DOOR THAT'S AJAR...
SORRY.
WE'RE FEDERAL AGENTS. YOU'RE STUDENTS AT THE COLLEGE, RIGHT?
WE WONDERED IF YOU SAW THOSE SCIENCE-WOMEN EARLIER TODAY?
YEAH, THAT WAS AWESOME! THEY, LIKE, EVACUATED THE WHOLE BUILDING? TERRI OVER THERE, SHE SAW IT ALL!
SO COME TOGETHER ACROSS THE UNIVERSE, OR ON A SOFA OR TWO WITH YOUR SISTER. IT'S MY NORTHERN LIGHT FANTASTIC VOYAGE TO ARCTURUS, LAR.
LADY MADONNA, LET IT BE, AND GENTLY WEEP ON MY GUITAR. ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE ME DO YOU WANNA DANCE, SING OBLADA?
FBI. YOU SAW THIS THING AT THE COLLEGE TODAY?
JESUS, YEAH. IT WAS STACIA VANDERVEER AND HER GEEKY GIRLFRIEND.
VANDERVEER, LIKE, DREW THIS PICTURE IN HER SKETCHBOOK, OKAY? AND THAT CHANGED HER INTO THIS, LIKE, TOTAL AMAZON. IT WAS UNBELIEVABLE!
HEY, I WENT OUT WITH VANDERVEER ONCE. IS SHE AN X-FILE?
LUCILLE? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I'M GOING TO CALL UP WHAT WE HAVE ON THIS VANDERVEER KID. KNOWN ASSOCIATES, MAYBE A PHOTOGRAPH WE CAN CHECK AGAINST SECURITY FOOTAGE...
PRUDENCE IN THE SKY WITH TIGERS BURNING BRIGHTLY FROM AFAR: IT'S ONLY A NORTHERN LIGHT FANTASTIC VOYAGE TO ARCTURUS, LARRR!
YOU SUCK! WHERE'S LES MISERABLE?
AFTER THAT, I'M GOING TO NEED SOME WARRANTS.
WE HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH A JUDGE.

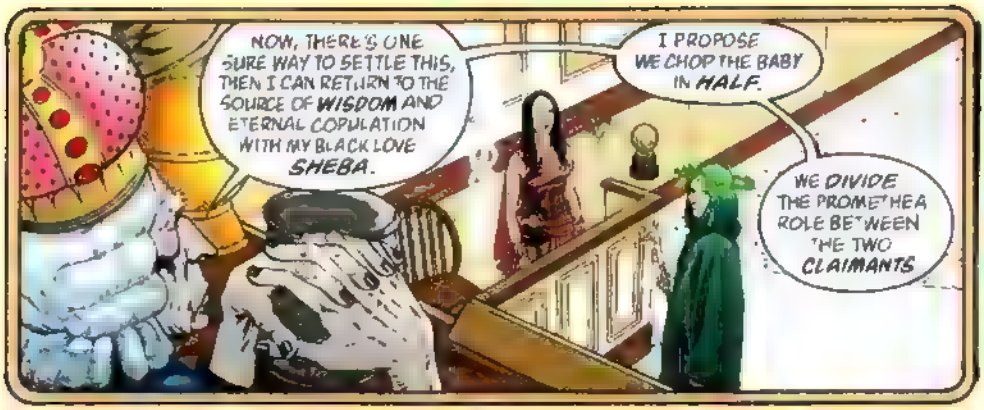

SO, THEN...
:ORRUP:
I REITERATE.
POP
MR. JOHN KENDRICK BANGS, WE HAVE HEARD HOW YOUR GREAT-NIECE DESERTED HER DUTIES SEEKING ONE BARBARA SHELLEY, DECEASED.
:ORRUP:
YET WITH THIS ACCOMPLISHED, YOU'VE SAID SHE CONTINUED HER... VACATION, IS THAT CORRECT?
WELL, YES, BUT...
NO FURTHER QUESTIONS, YOUR WORSHIP. MR. FAUST MAY CROSS-EXAMINE.
:ORRUP:
YEAH, YOU BET.
SO, MR. BANGS, THIS TIME YOU SAW YOUR GREAT-NIECE, SHE SEEM TO YOU LIKE SHE WAS STRINGING OUT SOME VACATION?
NOT AT ALL. HER FRIEND WAS TRAVELLING ON ALONE, AND SOPHIE BRAVELY VOLUNTEERED TO ACCOMPANY HER.
THANK YOU. NO FURTHER QUESTIONS.
IN THAT CASE, I CALL GRACE BRANNAGH AND STACIA VANDERVEER.
:ORRUP:
SINCE MY CLIENTS WERE EFFECTIVELY ONE ENTITY DURING THIS PERIOD, THEY HAVE ELECTED TO SHARE THE WITNESS-STAND. :ORRUP:
DO EXCUSE US, DARLING. I THINK WE'RE ON.
YEAH. EXCUSE MY BUTT, SIMPLY RED.
OW!
KA-THUMP
SO, LADIES, WHAT HAPPENED, EXACTLY? :ORRUP:
WELL, POPPET, MISS BANGS LEFT US IN CHARGE WHILE SHE WENT OFF EXPLORING KABALLAH.
YEAH. AFTER SHE SCREWED HER ATTORNEY THERE, SHE GOT KINDA OBSESSED.
JESUS CHRIST! OBJECTION!
OVERRULED. SO, WHICH ONE OF YOU CLAIMS TO BE THE BABY'S MOTHER, AGAIN?
NEITHER. THERE ISN'T A BABY, YOUR WORSHIP, DARLING. DO TRY TO KEEP UP.
ANYWAY, WHILE WE WERE EARTH'S PROMETHEA, WE COMPLETELY RULED...
WE SLAPPED UP ALL THESE SCIENCE-VILLAIN BITCHES, THEN WE HANDLED THIS POSSESSED MAYOR. WE, LIKE, LITERALLY ATE THE WHOLE GOETIA!
SO THEN SANTA'S MOM OVER THERE SHOWS UP, FIRES US WITH NO NOTICE AND STARTS THIS BIG FIGHT.
TH-THAT MUST HAVE BEEN WHAT SET OFF THE WEIRD PROMETHEA REACTION, BUT WE NEVER WANTED THAT. WE WERE JUST DOING OUR JOB.
WHY DO GOOD THINGS HAPPEN TO BAD PEOPLE?
:ORRUP: FROM WHICH YOU'D JUST BEEN UNFAIRLY DISMISSED WITHOUT DUE NOTICE. THANK YOU, LADIES. NO FURTHER QUESTIONS.


POP
"WITHOUT DUE NOTICE," HUH?
SO YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT THE OFFICIAL PROMETHEA WAS RETURNING, AND THAT YOUR RELIEF-SHIFT WAS OVER?
THAT'S INTERESTING...
...'CAUSE, Y'KNOW, I'D A SWORN THAT'S WHAT YOU ASKED ME TO FIND OUT, WHEN YOU VISITED MY HOME.
AND ROUGHED ME UP?
REMEMBER?
BUT HEY, NO HARD FEELINGS.
INSTEAD, I'D LIKE TO ASK ABOUT WHEN YOU TOOK ON THESE TEMPORARY DUTIES. SOPHIE REALLY TWISTED YOUR ARMS, HUH?
I--I... LOOK, DARLING, I'VE ALWAYS ENJOYED PHYSICAL EXISTENCE. I'VE NEVER DENIED IT.
UH-HUH. AND YOU'VE ALSO COME TO ENJOY MISS VANDERVEER, RIGHT?
WE DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER THAT.
FRANKLY, LADIES, YOU DON'T NEED TO ANSWER THAT.
OKAY. SO LEMME SEE IF I HAVE THIS STRAIGHT...
WHEN SOPHIE WENT TO HELP BARBARA SHELLEY, SHE MADE SURE HER EARTHLY DUTIES WERE COVERED BY SUGGESTING THAT YOU TWO TEMPORARILY STEP IN.
YOU LOVED THE IDEA... MISS BRANNAGH COULD BE MATERIAL AGA'N, MISS VANDERVEER COULD BE A SCIENCE-HEROINE... AND EVENTUALLY, YOU CAME TO LOVE EACH OTHER.
YOU REALIZED THAT WHEN SOPHIE RETURNED, ALL THIS WOULD END. YOU STARTED THAT FIGHT HOPING IT MIGHT END IN YOUR FAVOR.
SO, DID I MISS SOMETHING OUT? OR IS THAT PRETTY MUCH IT?
YOU LITTLE MAGGOT! I DIDN'T HOPE I'D TRIUMPH, I KNEW!
I'M GRACE BRANNAGH! I COULD HAVE FILLETED HER!
JESUS, GRACE, BABY, DON'T YELL...
I'M NOT YELLING!
I--I MEAN...
THANK YOU. NO FURTHER QUESTIONS.
YOUR WORSHIP, I REQUEST A SHORT BREAK, WHILE I CONFER WITH MY CLIENTS.
JACK, YOU WERE GREAT. WE CAN WIN THIS.
SOPHIE, KID, I'M TELLIN' YA, DON'T START CELEBRATIN' YET, OKAY?
THE CARDS LOOK BAD ON THIS.
I--I'M GOING TO LOSE?
WELL, YOU'RE UP NEXT FOR CROSS-EXAMINATION, BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT I SAID.
I SAID THE CARDS LOOKED BAD.
THE TOWER. THE TEN OF SWORDS.
THE AEON.
SOPHIE, I THINK EVERYBODY IS GOING TO LOSE.

PRU? WH-WHAT'S GOING ON? DID THAT MUSIC WAKE YOU, AS WELL?
I--I HARDLY SLEEP SINCE TEDDY WENT INTO THE HOSPITAL.
GO AND CHECK ON THE CHILDREN, HENRY. MAKE SURE THEY'RE ALL RIGHT.
THEY'RE GONE. GOD, PRU, THE CHILDREN. OUR GRANDCHIL-DREN...
...THEY'RE ALL GONE.
LOOK! THE PATIO DOORS ARE OPEN! THEY'VE GONE OUTSIDE!
HELP ME, HENRY! WE'VE GOT TO FETCH THEM. WE'VE GOT TO FETCH THEM INSIDE, BEFORE...

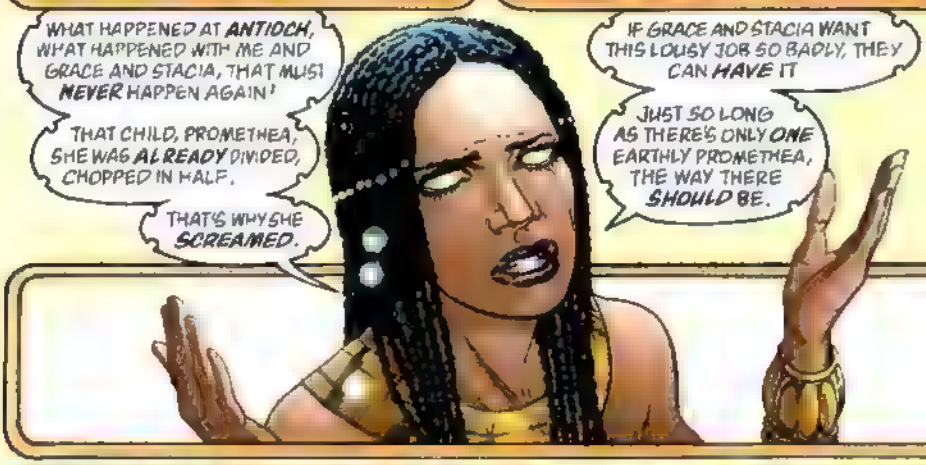
NO! OH, DEAR GOD, NO!
HENRY, WHERE'S HE TAKEN THEM? ALL THE CHILDREN...
GOOD NIGHT, GENTLEFOLK.
NOW DON'T YOU LET ME HEAR YOU SAYING AS YOU WEREN'T WARNED.
...THEY...
WHERE DID ALL THE CHILDREN GO?


TIME STOP!
PINK PANTHER
LOVE UNDER WILL
WELL, MISS BANGS? ;ORRUP;
ARE YOU GOING TO ANSWER THE QUESTION?
DID I LET CONCERN FOR A FRIEND COME BEFORE MY DUTIES WHEN I WENT LOOKING FOR BARBARA?
WELL, I MEAN, I GUESS SO, BUT...
THANK YOU. NO FURTHER QUESTIONS, YOUR WORSHIP.
;ORRUP;
HMM. OKAY, SOPHIE. THESE DUTIES YOU'VE BEEN SO NEGLIGENT ABOUT. WHAT FORCE IS IT THAT IMPOSES THEM?
WHAT, YOU MEAN BEING THE EARTHLY PROMETHEA?
WELL, I...I SUPPOSE THAT ULTIMATELY IT'S FATE OR THE GODHEAD OR SOMETHING THAT DECIDES THESE THINGS.
HUH? WAIT A MINUTE... I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU VISITED THE GODHEAD WITH BARBARA SHELLEY.
AND THE GODHEAD WASN'T, LIKE, PISSED AT YOU OR ANYTHING? I MEAN, WHICH PART OF IT DID YOU SPEAK TO?
DID YOU GET A NAME?
YES. SHE SAID I WOULD BE THE PROMETHEA PRESIDING OVER THE APOCALYPSE. THAT IT WOULD HAPPEN IN MY TIME.
HER NAME IS BABALON.
I SEE.
WELL, I IMAGINE THAT THE JURY MAY BE DISTANTLY FAMILIAR WITH THE PERSON THAT YOU MENTION.
BUT WHAT ABOUT MISS BRANNAGH AND MISS VANDERVEER? WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL THEM ON WHOSE AUTHORITY YOU WERE RESUMING YOUR APPOINTED TASKS?
I DID. STACIA SAID THAT SHE AND GRACE WERE LOVERS, AND THAT THEY WOULDN'T GIVE UP THE ROLE TO ANYONE.
AND THEN WE FOUGHT.
AND THE PROMETHEA ENTITY INSIDE US SUDDENLY REMEMBERED THE LAST TIME SHE'D BEEN DIVIDED AND AT WAR AGAINST HERSELF.
IN THE CRUSADES, AT ANTIOCH. IT WAS TERRIBLE.
AND THAT'S WHEN THE ORIGINAL PROMETHEA, THE CHILD... BEGAN TO SCREAM.
AHA!
WELL, NOW WE'RE GETTING TO THE MEAT OF THINGS!
I KNEW THAT THERE'D BE A DISPUTED INFANT MIXED UP IN THIS SOMEWHERE!


NOW, THERE'S ONE SURE WAY TO SETTLE THIS, THEN I CAN RETURN TO THE SOURCE OF WISDOM AND ETERNAL COPULATION WITH MY BLACK LOVE SHEBA.
I PROPOSE WE CHOP THE BABY IN HALF.
WE DIVIDE THE PROMETHEA ROLE BETWEEN THE TWO CLAIMANTS

DARLING, WE'D HAVE ACCEPTED THAT TO START WITH, ONLY SHE INSISTED ON BEING THE ONLY PROMETHEA!
AND ME AND GRACE CAN STAY TOGETHER? HEY, WORKS FOR ME
YOUR WORSHIP, MY CLIENTS ACCEPT YOUR VERDICT AND COMMEND YOU UPON YOUR PROVERBIAL SAGACITY
:ORRUP:

HUH WELL, I GUESS MY CLIENT CAN LIVE WITH THAT, SO...
NO!
HAVEN'T YOU LISTENED TO A WORD I'VE SAID?


WHAT HAPPENED AT ANTIOCH, WHAT HAPPENED WITH ME AND GRACE AND STACIA, THAT MUST NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN!
THAT CHILD, PROMETHEA, SHE WAS ALREADY DIVIDED, CHOPPED IN HALF.
THAT'S WHY SHE SCREAMED.
IF GRACE AND STACIA WANT THIS LOUSY JOB SO BADLY, THEY CAN HAVE IT
JUST SO LONG AS THERE'S ONLY ONE EARTHLY PROMETHEA, THE WAY THERE SHOULD BE.

PERFECT! EVERY TIME, IT WORKS LIKE A CHARM!
MISS BANGS IS GIVEN SOLE CUSTODY OF THE BABY... I MEAN THE DUTIES.
FOR THE MOMENT, SHE AND MISS VANDERVEER AND MR FAUST WILL BE RETURNED TO THEIR EARTHLY HOMES
NEXT CASE?
SOLOMON

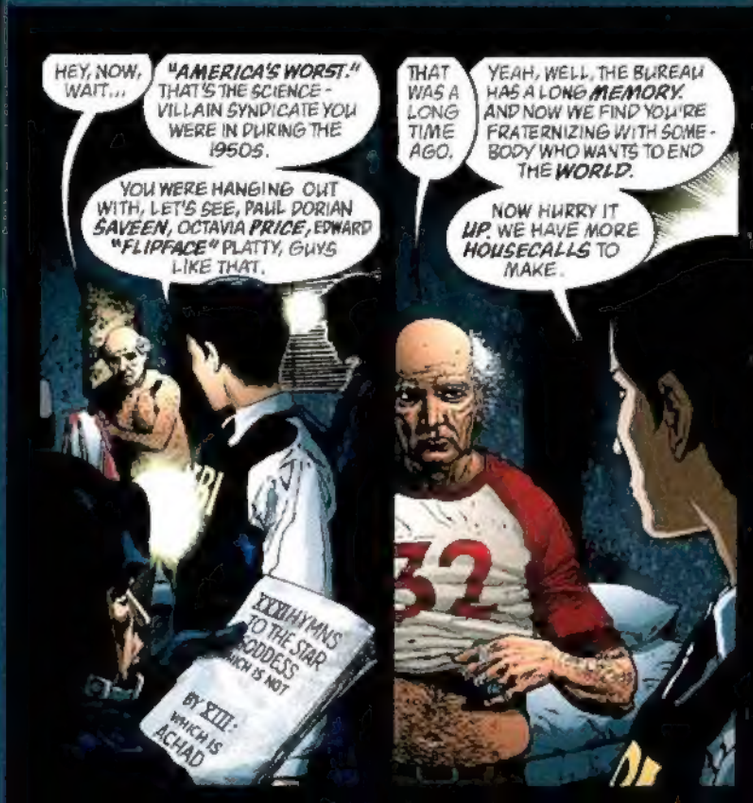
WHAT? WHAT JUST HAPPENED? DID HE JUST GIVE EVERYTHING TO HER, AFTER ALL?
BUT, I MEAN, THIS IS THE AMERICAN LEGAL SYSTEM! HE CAN'T...
DARLING, IT'S NOT. AND HE CAN
WE CAN'T FIGHT THIS DECISION. OH, MY POOR SWEETHEART...
LOOK, HE SAID YOU'D BE RETURNED TO YOUR HOMES LET'S SAY GOODBYE WHILE WE CAN.
NO! GRACE, JESUS, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? I LOVE YOU! I DON'T WANT TO BE WITHOUT YOU!
SOPHIE BANGS, YOU £$%& ING BITCH!
STACE, I'M SO SORRY...
DON'T! DON'T YOU £$%& ING "STACE" ME, YOU HYPOCRITICAL #?@~! I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN!
STACIA, MY LOVE, DON'T CRY YOU'LL MAKE UP IN YOUR OWN BEDROOM. IT WON'T BE SO BAD
JUST KISS ME BEFORE IT HAPPENS.
COME ON, SOPH
SO THAT'S IT? THE FOLKS HERE WILL JUST.. MAGIC EVERYTHING SO ME AND STACIA MATERIALIZE IN OUR OWN BEDS?
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
HEY, I'M ALREADY IN MY OWN BED THIS IS JUST MY ASTRAL FORM, REMEMBER?
I JUST GOTTA OPEN MY EYES.
IN FACT, I THINK I'LL DO THAT RIGHT NOW
CALL ME TOMORROW, SOPH, AND WE CAN TALK ABOUT ALL THIS
O-OKAY I WILL GOODBYE, JACK THANKS FOR EVERYTHING
YOU TAKE CARE NOW

THE DEVIL

LUCILLE BALL, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION.
JOHN BARRETT, ALSO KNOWN AS JACK FAUST, I'M ARRESTING YOU FOR CONSPIRACY LIKELY TO CAUSE UNREST.
COME ON. LET'S GO.
FBI

LADY, I DUNNO WHAT THIS IS ABOUT, BUT YOU GOT THE WRONG GUY.
I JUST RUN A TAROT-READING SERVICE. WHO AM I SUPPOSED TO HAVE CONSPIRED WITH?
STACIA VANDER-VEER, ALSO KNOWN AS PROMETHEA.
WE HAVE HER ON SECURITY CAMERA, VISITING YOU.

UH-OH.
OH, THIS IS A LITTLE MORE THAN JUST "UH-OH."
SEE, WE READ UP ON YOU, MR. FAUST, AND YOU DON'T JUST RUN A TAROT-READING SERVICE.
TURNS OUT YOU'RE A BIG-TIME SCIENCE VILLAIN.
FBI


HEY, NOW, WAIT...
"AMERICA'S WORST." THAT'S THE SCIENCE-VILLAIN SYNDICATE YOU WERE IN DURING THE 1950S.
YOU WERE HANGING OUT WITH, LET'S SEE, PAUL DORIAN SAVEEN, OCTAVIA PRICE, EDWARD "FLIPFACE" PLATTY, GUYS LIKE THAT.
XXIII HYMNS TO THE STAR GODDESS WHICH IS NOT
BY XIII: WHICH IS ACHAD
THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO.
YEAH, WELL, THE BUREAU HAS A LONG MEMORY. AND NOW WE FIND YOU'RE FRATERNIZING WITH SOMEBODY WHO WANTS TO END THE WORLD.
NOW HURRY IT UP. WE HAVE MORE HOUSECALLS TO MAKE.
32

UH... HOUSECALLS? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I MEAN THAT MY PARTNER'S PICKING UP THE VANDERVEER GIRL RIGHT NOW, AND THEN WE'RE VISITING THIS SOPHIE BANGS SHE'S APPARENTLY CLOSE TO.
OKAY, HE'S READY. CUFF HIM AND ESCORT HIM TO THE VEHICLE.
FBI
FBI

FBI
FBI

WHAT?
WHAT THE &$%@ ARE YOU LOOKIN' AT?
SO THEY'RE BURNIN' WITCHES.
SO WHAT ELSE IS NEW?

OKAY.
LET'S DO THIS.
FBI
REMEMBER, THIS IS THE DANGEROUS ONE. FORGET SHE LOOKS LIKE A TEENAGE GIRL.
SHE CAN TURN INTO A DEMONESS JUST BY DRAWING SOMETHING IN A SKETCHPAD.
IT'S VITAL WE DON'T LET HER DO THAT.
RIGHT. HERE GOES.
UH...
YES?
HEY! WAIT A MINUTE! WHERE ARE YOU...
KAREN BREUGHEL, FBI. WE'RE HERE TO SEE YOUR DAUGHTER.
S-STACIA? I THINK SHE'S STILL IN BED. I--I DIDN'T HEAR HER COME HOME LAST NIGHT.
LOOK, WHAT'S THIS ABOUT? YOU CAN'T JUST BARGE INTO OUR HOME...
YES WE CAN. COULD SOMEBODY TAKE MR. AND MRS. VANDERVEER OUTSIDE, PLEASE?
OKAY, THIS MUST BE THE DAUGHTER'S ROOM.
READY ON MY COMMAND.
NO!
FBI
LET GO OF US! THIS IS...
THERE'S ALWAYS SOMET
FBI!
FREEZE!
STACIA VANDERVEER, ALSO KNOWN AS PROMETHEA, WE'RE PLACING YOU UNDER ARREST!
WHO?
WH-WHO THE £$%& IS THIS? I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING...
LEMME JUST...
AGENT BREUGHEL!
SHE'S GOING FOR THE SKETCHPAD!
OH, £$%& ME.
GET THE PARAMEDICS HERE. FAST.
WHAT WAS THAT? WHAT WAS THAT SHOT? STACIA?
SIR...
STACIA!
FBI

THE HANGED MAN

NN...
S-STACIA...?
UHH...
OH, BABY.
SOMETHING'S COMING. I KNOW IT.
BABY, YOU GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE.
M-MOM, WHAT...?
SOPHIE, I SAW THAT STUFF ON TV YESTERDAY, AND I WAS STANDING HERE WHEN YOU JUST... APPEARED JUST NOW.
BABY, I CAN FEEL IT. THERE'S TROUBLE, AND IT'S GOING TO BE HERE SOON.
I LOVE YOU, BABY. YOU GOTTA GO.
THE BACK WINDOW? MOM, YOU'RE... YOU'RE SURE ABOUT THIS?
SOPHIE, I'M YOUR MOM. THERE'S DOGS COMING FOR MY DAUGHTER AND I JUST KNOW.
LOOK, HERE'S MONEY. LEAVE THE CITY. WHEN YOU CALL, HANG UP. DON'T SPEAK. I'LL KNOW IT'S YOU.
OH, SOPHIE...

...is "TEXTure.. and the City comes together in support for IVULA CASCADE, former adult entertainer and New York's new MAYOR.
Commenting on her electoral majority, Ms. Cascade said, "Ooh, it's so BIG! Give it to me! Oh YES! Oh GODDON"
This is "TEXTure..
Following the failure of his New York comeback gig, LIMP frontman MONTY STYKES has quit the music business.
Asked his reasons, STYKES said, "It's my bitter sweet little sixteenth nervous breakdown. Ta!"
This is "TEXTure.. Meanwhile, in other news...
FIVE SWELL GUTS genius MARV "the black one" HAMILTON announced today that he's abandoning the hunt for Bruno "JELLYHEAD" Smiliac's murderer.
"Look, we have no leads. Our only suspect, the PAINTED DOLL, remains apparently dead. That's it. Show's over."
This is "TEXTure..
In breaking news, we have reported FBI dawn raids connected with what's being called "The PROMETHEA Terror Attack" on New York yesterday.

Two women and one man, said to be a major SCIENCE VILLAIN, are reportedly being questioned by authorities.
More on that story as we hear it.
This is TEXTure...
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END OF BOOK FOUR